



## **Report to the Voters of Lyndon**

The Northeastern Vermont Development Association – the state’s only regional planning commission and economic development corporation – has been serving your community and the Northeast Kingdom for more than 60 years. We continue to assist local officials with land use, transportation, and emergency planning, and we serve the businesses of the Kingdom, promoting sustainable economic growth.

In 2013, NVDA assisted your community by prepared a hazard mitigation planning grant on behalf of the town so that the All-hazard Mitigation Plan can be updated. We provided technical assistance with zoning and updates to the town plan. We assisted the Joint Town/Village Garage Committee to prepare for environmental investigation of a potential Joint Garage Site. Local business outreach visits were conducted. A village-center designation map was produced for Lyndonville.

Understanding that many of our communities have limited resources to deal with increasingly complex issues and state and federal requirements we work to ensure that our planning, technical assistance, and business services help to address important local needs. This year our staff met with every community to review existing plans and recommend strategies for updating and implementing them. Training programs that we offered covered a variety of topics, including disaster planning and flood resilience, due process in planning and zoning, and foreign trade benefits. Also, nearly every community in our region has participated in our well-attended local road foreman trainings.

Most of us are aware that an infusion of EB-5 investment funds will bring substantial and positive developments to communities in the Northeast Kingdom, particularly in the manufacturing, hospitality, and tourism sectors. These developments are attracting other developments and NVDA has responded by hiring an additional economic development specialist for the region and by marshalling resources to identify the impacts on our region’s services, infrastructure, and housing stock so that our communities can prepare. Earlier this year NVDA established a Foreign Trade Zone that will increase the competitiveness of our region’s businesses and facilitate trade.

For communities and businesses in the region, NVDA is the first contact for information and technical support on land use planning, project development, permitting, financing, and grant assistance. We maintain staff in Newport and St. Johnsbury, which allows us to better meet the needs of our vast region. You can visit our website [www.nvda.net](http://www.nvda.net) and follow us on Facebook for latest news and events, and planning resources.

Thank you for all of your efforts in your community. We truly value your continued support and look forward to serving you in 2014.

Sincerely,  
David Snedeker, Executive Director